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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Kessler *et al.*

Application No.: 09/530,747

Group Art Unit: 1655

Filed: October 23, 2000

Examiner: Taylor, J.

For: SPECIFIC AND SENSITIVE NUCLEIC  
ACID DETECTION METHOD

Attorney Docket No.: 4817/0R

TECH CENTER 1600/2900  
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JAN 15 2002AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action mailed July 23, 2001, in connection with the above-captioned Application. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and remarks that follow is respectfully requested. Filed herewith are Exhibit A ("Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims"), Exhibit B ("Pending Claims After Entry of Instant Amendment") and a Petition for Extension of Time extending the period for response by three months to and including January 23, 2001.

AMENDMENTIN THE CLAIMS

Marked up copies of the following amended claims are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Please amend Claims 1 and 5 to read as follows:

- SubD1
1. (Three times amended) A method for the detection of a nucleic acid comprising the steps:
- (a)- producing a plurality of amplificates of a section of the nucleic acid with the aid of two primers, one of which can bind to a first binding sequence (A) of one strand of the nucleic acid and the other can bind to a second binding
- C1